



RE: Please send your requests for funding for FY 2013 EPM special projects
Blasing, Nathan (MPCA)
to:
Sherry Kamke
11/09/2012 01:24 PM
Cc:
Mark Restaino
Hide Details
From: "Blasing, Nathan (MPCA)" <nathan.blasing@state.mn.us>
To: Sherry Kamke/R5/USEPA/US@EPA,
Cc: Mark Restaino/R5/USEPA/US@EPA

Sherry- I put this together in very short order. Please let me know if you have additional questions or need further informations.

1. To help ensure meeting the 2005 Energy Bill requirement of owners/operators showing knowledge of their tank systems though having a certified class A, B, and C operators, Minnesota elected to use an online certification process. The MPCA has a contract with Test.com which currently charges the MPCA \$1.00/test. At this point the MPCA has been paying for this cost. The cost of taking the test is likely to increase after the initial program development contract money is spent. The MPCA is anticipating approximately 2,500 online tests to be taken in the next year. Also a .5 FTE coordinates the online testing process as well and the operator training approval. Funding to help pay for testing costs and the FTE with this process would be help ensure that we can continue to support this efficient means of training a large number of operators.

\$25,000 to continue to support this e-business support as we move toward the next phase of operator training.

2. Outreach/Training- Alternative fuel compatibility is a significant topic of growing concern in Minnesota. Additional funding would be used for research, outreach, and educational purposes. It would be beneficial to tank owners if MPCA staff would be able to conduct numerous seminars which would help owners work through their misunderstandings and provide clarity for their facilities regarding compliance with alternative fuel compatibility regulations. Since the requirements are equipment specific, MPCA will most likely be spending a large portion of time meeting with and educating owners on the specific compatibility of their tanks, piping, pumps, probes, sensors, and dispensers. Also since this is an evolving topic it would be helpful for MPCA tank staff to attending national confrences in regards to alternative fuels.

\$50,000 to implement a biofuels initiative on compatibility, education, and outreach. This would include benchmarking across the country, equipment compatibility research, and making alternatives known to the industry.

3. Inspections- Minnesota currently appears to be on track to meet the 3 year inspection cycle for Federally regulated UST facilities. However due to State budget shortfalls inspector vehicle priority may be changed. Currently each tank inspector is assigned a vehicle that allows them to conduct inspections whenever possible. Recently one vehicle that was dedicated to tank inspectors was reassigned for other Agency purposes which means two tank inspectors will be sharing a vehicle. This could limit the number of inspections they are able to conduct durning the busy summer months. Funding for an extra vehicle would benfit the MPCA at this point to ensure tank inspectors are able to maximize their time for conducting inspections.

\$30,000 for an all weather vehicle. We are generally using smaller pickups or hybrid SUVs with alternative fuel capability.

Thanks;

Nate Blasing
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Tanks Program/Compliance Coordinator
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